डीजल का उपयोग होता था। अब हम इसमें .05 परसेंट सल्फर के डीजल का उपयोग कर रहे हैं और इसलिएयह जो डीजल है इसी डीजल का दुनियां के सारे बड़े शहरों में इसका उपयोग होता है और इसलिए प्रदूषण कम हुआ है। तो उसका बड़ा श्रेय डीजल को और जो पैट्रोल में वन परसेंट लेड रहता था अब उसकी जगह लेड फ्री पैट्रोल भी दिया जाता है। इसलिए ईंधन में यह जो सुधार किया है मुख्यत: उसके कारण भी तथा सी.एन.जी. का भी थोड़ा योगदान तो उसमें जरूर है।

Income Tax dues from sports personalities

*582. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of income tax dues from sports personalities in the country for the last three years;

(b) the number of cricketers who were assessed to income tax and the amount due from them for the last three years; and

(c) the details of tax paid under open inquiry made by the income tax department as reported in Deccan Herald dated 18th April, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Income Tax Department does not maintain separate details of Income-tax dues in respect of sports personalities.

(b) Thirty three cricketers have been assessed for income tax in the last three years. A total amount of Rs. 3.81 crores is due as tax from these cricketers, which are in different stages of process including appeal.

(c) Tax amounting to Rs. 1,39,54,779/- has been collected from three cricketers of Karnataka by taxing additional income amounting to Rs. 1,88,67,622/- for Assessment Years from 1994-95 to 2000-01. In respect of two other cricketers of Karnataka, tax demand of Rs. 68,96,145/- was raised by taxing the income amounting to Rs. 92,64,549/- for Assessment Years 1995-96 to 2000-01.

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir,regarding the first part of my question, I would like to submit that it has not been answered. The Minister in his answer has said that the Income Tax Department does not maintain

separate details of Income Tax dues in respect of sports personalities. But in the next para he has specifically identified 33 sports personalities in cricket. It is contrary to the statement of the Minister made in para (a) of his answer. If they are maintaining Income Tax details of 33 cricketers, then they should also maintain the Income Tax details of all the sports personalities who have been assessed. After the match-fixing and betting issue came to light, a lot of cricketers are getting huge amounts not only by way of remuneration for playing, but through advertisements and through other ways also. Still, they are not disclosing their income to the Government truthfully. In these circumstances, the reply says that Rs. 3.81 crores is still due from the cricketers. If that is the case, who are those cricketers and what are the measures the Government have taken for recovery of the amount due from them ? This is my first supplementary.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, with regard to income-tax returns, I submit that we are not keeping the account of each and every person. We maintain the records of only those persons who have filed their returns. I have furnished the reply on the basis of our records. According to our records, there are no separate details of income tax dues in respect of sports personalities. But we have gathered information from the various Income-tax Departments.

Under section 132 of the Income-tax Act, we have raided the houses of some of the cricketers and we found some incriminating documents. We have seized those documents and then initiated some proceedings against them. Accordingly, we have taken some steps. Some cricketers have filed an appeal, and some have, so far, not yet filed any appeal since they have got time till July of this year. There are twenty-three cricketers. If the hon.Member so desires, I will give the names. They are: Kapil Dev, Ajay Jadeja, Nikhil Chopra, Mohd. Azharuddin, Venkatesh Prasad, Sunil Joshi, Saurav Ganguli, Debashish Mohanty, Raman, Robin Singh, Nayan Mongia, Navjot Singh Sidhu. These cricketers are having dues. The matter is pending before the appellate tribunal. And, in some cases, the matter is at the investigation stage. The cricketers who are not having any dues are: S.S. Das, Hamang Badani, Kiran More, Madan Lal, Prashant Vaidya, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Javagal Srinath, VVS Laxman, Venkataraghavan, Srikant, Sri Ram, Ajay Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar, Deep Das Gupta, Arun Lal, Syed Sabha Karim, Sunil Gavaskar, Ajit Wadekar, Sachin Tandulkar, Ajit Agarkar. These twenty-one crickets are not having any dues.

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. There is one exception, and it is Pullela Gopi Chand. I must mention his name here.

He declined to give advertisement, for improvement of the sports and to maintain the high standards. But the others who are after money are without looking into the other aspects, giving advertisements for soft drinks, etc. They are earning without looking at the health or mind of the youth of the country. I want to know from the hon. Minister how much they have earned through advertisements, what is the amount paid by the MNCs, and also the amount they received through playing. I want to know the details.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: At present, the information is not available. He can give a separate notice.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is very lenient to the cricketers. You know the way they are earning. Nowadays, the cricketers have lost the spirit. Formerly, they used to fight with great *abhiman* for our country. Nowadays, they are only after money. When these people have so much money, why is the Government so quiet ? Why are you so lenient towards them ? Ordinary people put the whole *kamai* of their life, and construct a small house. The income-tax people go to them and trouble them like anything. While these people, who are roaming in Mercedes Benz, are earning so much money. But no action is taken. Mr. Javare Gowda has got full list of them. Why are you not taking any action against them? Do you propose to prosecute them or take any action against them ? You can send them a notice, saying that unless and until they clear their income-tax dues, they would not be allowed to play. Do you have any idea like this ?

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: On 20.07.2000, we have already conducted a search and seizure against the cricketers and other officials of the Cricket Board. Accordingly, we have filed the cases. Assessments in respect of Ajay Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar, Nikhil Chopra, Ajay Sharma, Kapil Dev are pending before the investigation authorities. There is no discrimination in conducting enquiry or investigation.

श्री संजय निरूपम: चेयरमैन सर, हमारे देश में दो तबके ऐसे हैं जो खूब पैसा कमाते हैं और रातों-रात अमीर बनने का फार्मूला कहलाते हैं, वे हैं क्रिकेट और फिल्म स्टार्स। इन दोनों तबकों के पीछे इनकम टैक्स वाले हमेशा लगते हैं जैसे कि मंत्री महोदय ने सर्चेज़ के बारे में बताया। मुम्बई में हर एक-दो साल में फिल्म वालों पर इनकम टैक्स के छापे मारे जाते हैं जिनकी बड़ी चर्चा होती है। क्रिकेटर्स के यहां भी छापे मारे जाते हैं लेकिन उसमें मिलता क्या है ? छापों के बाद जब अखबारों में आता है कि इन्होंने इतने पैसे खाए, इन्होंने इनकम टैक्स की इतनी चोरी की, उसके बाद पैसे निकलकर आते नहीं हैं। वह कैसे मैनेज होता है, पता नहीं चलता है। कभी इनकम टैक्स अधिकारी

के यहां कोई अभिनेत्री खाना खाकर आ जाए तो उसके खिलाफ जो केसेज़ हैं, वे रद्द हो जाते हैं। इनकम टैक्स वाले बाकायदा छापे मारते हैं इन फिल्म वालों के ऊपर और क्रिकेटर्स के ऊपर लेकिन कुछ निकल कर नहीं आता। तीन-चार साल के बाद उसके ऊपर लीपा-पोती हो जाती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि ये जो क्रिकेटर्स के नाम अभी मंत्री जी ने बताए, इनके ऊपर कितने पैसे बकाया हैं? इस पूरे पैसे की रिकवरी को एक्सपीडाइट करने की दिशा में आप क्या कर रहे हैं? क्या सरकार के पास ऐसी निर्धारित सीमा होती है कि इतने समय के अंदर उनसे पैसे ले लेने हैं? एक बहुत बड़े क्रिकेटर हैं जो रिटायर हो चुके हैं, मैं उनका नाम नहीं बताऊंगा। उनके वानखेड़े स्टेडियम के लॉकर से बीस लाख रुपए या डॉलर्स में एक बड़ा एमाउंट जब्त हुआ था, बाकायदा समाचार-पत्रों में छपा था कि उनके लॉकर से अवैध रूप से इतने पैसे मिले। इनकम टैक्स ने कहा कि हम केस बनाएंगे। लेकिन उसके बाद क्या हुआ कुछ मालूम नहीं। क्या अंदर इनकम-टैक्स वालों के साथ बैठकर चीजों को सैटल कर लिया जाता है, सोल्व कर लिया जाता है जिससे बाद में कुछ निकलकर नहीं आता है? पूरा देश इन सारे मामलों को परस्यू नहीं कर सकता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इनकम-टैक्स के जो केसेस आते हैं, उसमें हमेशा सचमुच में कुछ रिजल्ट निकलकर नहीं आता है, सचमुच में हमें पता नहीं चलता कि इस व्यक्ति ने या क्रिकेटर ने इतने पैसे खाए या फिर टैक्स की चोरी की, टैक्स का इवेजन किया या इनकम डिपार्टमेंट को इसकी जानकारी भी है तो सचमुच में इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के पास कितने पैसे आए। अभी आप मैच फिक्सिंग का केस ले लीजिए। मैच फिक्सिंग सीधे अवैध संपत्ति जमा करने से जुड़ा हुआ है। मैच फिक्सिंग के मामले की पूरी छानबीन तीन-चार स्तरों पर चल रही है। सी॰बी॰आई॰ कर रही है, एन्फोर्समेंट डायरेक्टोरेट कर रही है, इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट कर रहा है। एनफोर्समेंट डायरेक्टोरेट के बारे में हमने लास्ट सेशन में सवाल पूछा था, पता नहीं चला कि क्या हो रहा है, सी॰बी॰आई॰ की रिपोर्ट का भी पता नहीं चला कि क्या हो रहा है। क्या आप बता सकते हैं कि इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट की इस समय ताजा स्थिति क्या है? क्या इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट ने अपनी रिपोर्ट पूरी कर ली है? क्या इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट साफ-साफ शब्दों में बता सकता है, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर बता सकते हैं कि मैच फिक्सिंग में कौन-कौन से क्रिकेटर्स शामिल थे, कितने बड़े पैमाने पर अवैध संपत्ति पाई गई और इतनी अवैध संपत्ति में जो टैक्स का कलेक्शन होता है वह हो गया है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवंत सिन्हा) : सभापति महोदय, इनकम टैक्स विभाग का कर्त्तव्य है कि वह सही इनकम पर सही टैक्स वसूल करे। इनकम टैक्स विभाग का यह कर्त्तव्य कतई नहीं है कि वह लोगों की बदनामी करता फिरे। इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमें बहुत सावधानी के साथ अपना काम करना है। माननीय सदस्य की धारणा है कि सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स होते हैं लेकिन उसके बाद भी देश को पता नहीं चलता, संसद को पता नहीं चलता कि क्या कार्रवाई हुई, इसके बारे में मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहूंगा कि इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट दो प्रकार से अपना काम

करता है। एक तो साधारणतया यह कि जो टैक्स नेट में हैं, ऐसे लोग अपना रिटर्न फाइल करते हैं, चाहे वे क्रिकेटर हों या किसी और दूसरे धंधे में लगे हों। रिटर्न की एक सीमित मात्रा में स्क्रूटीनी होती है। स्क्रूटेनाइज होने के बाद यदि पता चलता है कि कुछ और टैक्स उन्हें देना चाहिए तो उस टैक्स को विभाग कलेक्ट करता है। माननीय सदस्या ने अभी प्रश्न पूछा था कि हम नरम क्यों हैं, यह ध्वनि शायद यहां से भी आ रही है तो हमने पार्ट सी में कहा है कि 1,39,54,779 रुपये कुछ क्रिकेटर्स से प्राप्त किए गए। यह डिपार्टमेंट की चौकसी के चलते ही संभव हो पाया है कि उन्होंने रिटर्न स्क्रूटेनाइज किया और उनके साथ बातचीत की। उन्हें नोटिस इश्यू किया कि यह जो आपने क्लेम किया है कि आपको इसकी एग्जम्पशन मिलनी चाहिए, वह सही नहीं था। उन्होंने उसे स्वीकार किया टैक्स पेयर ने, और उसके बाद में उन्होंने अधिक टैक्स जमा किया। एक तो यह तरीका है जिसमें हम टैक्स का रिटर्न स्क्रूटेनाइज करते हैं। दूसरा तरीका यह है कि यदि कुछ कारणवश डिपार्टमेंट को शक होता है कि इनकम टैक्स छुपाया जा रहा है तो वहां सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स होते हैं, सर्वे होता है और कभी-कभी ओपन इंक्वायरी भी होती है। जैसाकि अभी मेरे सहयोगी मित्र ने बताया कि जहां सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स होनी हैं वहां किसी प्रकार की कोताही नहीं बरती जाती है। इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के पास दो वर्ष का समय होता है जिसमें वह सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स के नतीजों के आधार पर डिमांड रेज करते हैं। जिन क्रिकेटर्स के केस में सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स हुए हैं उसकी अवधि 31 जुलाई, 2002 को समाप्त हो रही है। अभी विभाग के पास समय है और विभाग इस दिशा में काम कर रहा है कि जो भी सूचना मिली है उसके अनुसार वे असेसमेंट रेज करें। माननीय सदस्य की यह चिंता इसलिए पैदा हुई क्योंकि जब कभी भी सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स होती है तो वह मीडिया में और चारों तरफ काफी ब्लो अप होती है जिससे सारे देश को जानकारी मिल जाती है कि किसके खिलाफ सर्चेस एंड सीजर्स हुआ है। इनकम टैक्स की सामान्य भाषा में इसे रेड कहते हैं। उसके बाद इनकम टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट अपना काम करता है। काम के बाद जब वह किसी नतीजे पर पहुंचता है तो डिमांड रेज करता है। उस समय वह अपने आप में इतनी बड़ी खबर नहीं बनती, कहीं छपती नहीं है, इसलिए यह इम्प्रेशन रहता है कि इसका कुछ नतीज़ा नहीं निकला। मैं माननीय सदस्य और पूरे सदन को आपके माध्यम से आश्वस्त करना चाहूंगा कि किसी प्रकार के वर्ग विशेष के लिए कोई कोताही नहीं बरती जा रही है। जितना टैक्स वसूल करना चाहिए वहां उतना ही टैक्स वसूल करने का हम प्रयास कर रहे हैं। लेकिन साथ ही साथ जैसा मैंने कहा कि इसके लिए हम सबका मिलकर प्रयास होना चाहिए कि इनकम टैक्स विभाग को किसी संस्था या किसी कि बदनामी करने के लिए हम अनावश्यक रूप से न यूज करें।

श्रीमती माया सिंह: सभापति महोदय, आपके माध्यम से मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूंगी कि हमारे देश में सोशल सिक्योरिटी का प्रावधान नहीं है। अधिकतर बुजुर्ग माता पिता अपने बच्चों पर ही आश्रित रहते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में पारिवारिक मूल्यों को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए क्या सरकार उन लोगों को टैक्स में राहत देगी जो अपने माता पिता का भरण पोषण करते हैं?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, this question does not arise out of this question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Of course, the Minister has clarified the position briefly. But, I would like to have some clarifications. They have said that in July, 2000, they have raided the premises of 84 cricketers. The hon. Minister of State has just now mentioned the names of 5-6 cricketers. Of course, he need not mention the names of all 84 cricketers. Sir, the premises of 84 cricketers all over India were raided on the basis of "cogent" evidence. It was revealed by the then Finance Minister at a Press briefing in Bangalore. Now, I would like to know as to how many cricketers out of these 84 cricketers were really found at fault. This is first part of my question. The second part of my question is this. It was said, "The investigation is going on against Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Navjot Singh Sidhu and Manoj Prabhkar." This information has been given earlier in the reply to an Unstarred question. And, it has been told that a penalty of Rs. 8 crores is outstanding from Shri Dilip Sardesai. Sir, Rs. 8 crores is not a small amount. This Rs. 8 crores penalty is outstanding from one person. So, this august House would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the stage of the investigation? Is it a fact that Rs. 8 crores is outstanding? When is it going to be collected? Or, is there any dispute? And, it has also been said that other investigation is going on. What does it mean? In the matter of deficit finance, the investigation must be done quickly. These premises were raided about two years back, i.e., in the year 2000. But, till now, the investigation is going on. So, I would like to know what is the stage of investigation.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have already explained that the Department, after it conducts search and seizures, has, at its disposal, a period of two years during which it has to complete the result of the investigation. That period is going to expire as far as these cases are concerned, on the 31st of July, as I have already mentioned. Now, the information, Sir, which I have with me would show, as we have mentioned in the main part of the reply that the premises of 33 cricketers and related entities were searched. All of them were not cricketers, some of were relatives of cricketers, some were other entities who were working in the field of sports, but because it talks of the sport personalities, we have included that information. So, I am not going by what appeared in the newspapers. According to my information, 33 such entities have been searched. We have information about what was seized, what were the documents which were collected, etc. All this is under examination of the

Department. And, Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, there is a procedure; income-tax is a civil law, it is not a criminal law; it is a civil law, and we have to proceed according to the law of the land. The law of the land is that an assessment will be made, the notice of the assessment will be issued, then the assessee has the alternative of either paying the tax or disputing it before the appellate authorities; if he disputes it before the appellate authorities, as we have found in some cases, then the prescribed legal procedure takes its course. Now, we cannot short-circuit that prescribed legal procedure. And, therefore, this impression, Sir, that we are not being pro-active, is perhaps not correct. We are being pro-active, but we have to be active within the framework of the law of the land. And, therefore, if somebody takes us to the Settlement Commission, we will have to argue before the Settlement Commission. We have few levels of appeal, the first level of appeal in the Income-tax Commissioner appeals, then he can go to the Appellate Tribunal, then he goes to the High Court, then he goes to the Supreme Court, and we have figures which will suggest where all these demands which are in arrears, are pending, before the various courts. But we are pursuing all these cases, and, especially, we have fixed very strict norms for disposal of cases by our own Departmental Appellate authorities.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, this is an indirectly related question to sports and misuse of funds. A large number of officers, particularly those belonging to the IAS and the IPS, are very actively participating in sports areas. A large number of such officers throughout the country are holding high offices such as Presidents or General Secretaries of various sports organisations like in Cricket, Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Cycling. They also actively campaign to win elections. All this is done by misusing telephones, cars, their positions in offices at the cost of the common man problems. I would like to know whether the Government thinks it fit that they should go on doing so at the cost of the common man, getting money from the public exchequer, enjoying visits abroad and wasting time. Will the hon. Minister take up this issue with his counterpart, the Sports Minister?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, we will bring it to the notice of the Sports Minister.

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Sir, I find the reply of the hon. Minister to be unfair. He says the Income-Tax Department does not maintain separate details of income-tax dues in respect of cricketers. My point is that the Income-tax Department always maintains a list of film personalities. So, why is this

differenciation? Just for the sake of publicity, the Income-Tax Department publishes names of the film personalities, who have got dues to their department.

I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister. Does he have any list of industrialists whose dues are more than Rs. 10 lakhs? Can he provide that list? Another question that I would like to put is whether there is any restriction put on the income-tax department that they do not ride over the present top politicians. The income-tax department is always eager to ride over the film personalities, cricketers, the creative people, to whom the Government has not provided anything. They are just creative people and they have come up without any financial assistance or infrastructural facilities from the Government. They came up just on their own capabilities and are paying huge taxes to the Income-Tax Department. I would like to know whether the Government has got any infrastructure to ride over the big politicians and big industrialists. If so, kindly provide me the list of the industrialists who owe more than Rs. 10 lakhs?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the only point that we have made is that we do not maintain a separate list category-wise that film personalities owe so much, cricket personalities owe so much or politicians owe so much. This is not the kind of categorisation that exists in the Income-Tax Department. Whenever a question is asked, we try and collect as much information, as we can, in order to be able to answer that question.

My colleague has not at all been shy from releasing or mentioning here the names of cricketers against whom searches and seizures were conducted, the names of cricketers against whom there are not dues. But the question which the hon. Member has asked is the kind of danger to which I was referring, when I was replying to an earlier question that an impression is often created that we are particularly harsh with respect to a certain class of people. He has the impression that we are particularly harsh with respect to film personalities. Film personalities, sports personalities, politicians or bureaucrats are just tax-payers as far as the Income-Tax Department is concerned. We have absolutely no hesitation in providing information about the dues which are due from any class of tax-payers. The hon. Member has put one more question. How many businessmen are there who owe more than Rs. ten lakhs or how many politicians are there who owe more than Rs. ten lakhs? How many politicians or businessmen premises have been searched? We will be quite willing to provide that kind of information. There will be absolutely no difficulty.